

VioletsFun

The Violet Barn newsletter

April 2017 - No. 38

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Our calendar:

April 25, 2017.

International orders must be placed by this date for shipment week of May 1.

April 22-23, 2017.

AVGS Rochester Show & Sale
Our local club show, held at the Meadowwood Estates, 55 Ayrault Road, Fairport NY.

Spring shipping!

Safe delivery guaranteed on all orders, shipped by any means, beginning April 10 to most areas.

Free stuff and how to get it!

2017 AVSA Show awards.

Best Robinson collections
1st place: \$200
2nd place: \$100

Write a review.

Write a review before ordering, good or bad, we'd like to know. Get a free plant added to order.

Enter our photo contest!

First prize \$50, Second prize \$10
Entry deadline July 1, 2017. See: www.violetbarn.com/contest



(Some of) What's "New":

HCY's Black Moon. New kohleria hybrid from Taiwan. Bright crimson-red spots on white to pink background. Soft, fuzzy, medium green, serrated leaves. Heavy and easy bloomer.

HCY's Fashion Time. Another new kohleria hybrid from Taiwan. Bright crimson-red polka dots on white face, bordered in hot pink with hot pink backing to blooms. Light to medium green, soft, foliage.

Oxalis vulcanicola 'Bicolor'. A wonderful, variegated mutation of oxalis. Bright pink and blackish olive-green, small, fingernail sized shamrock shaped leaves. Easy grower and a bright accent to any planting.

What's News:



Photo contest winners!

Julie Lucht is the winner of our latest photo contest, with her entry of sinningia '*Bristol's Good Morning*'. The plant is beautifully grown and illustrates perfectly how it can be displayed in the typical home. Julie wins a \$50 coupon good towards a future purchase. Unfortunately, we haven't any sinningia speciosa ready to ship at this time--we will later this spring, though. Look for them!



Second place went to Joanne Isaak, for her photo of her collection of kohleria. These were grown through the South Dakota winter in her east-facing window. Kohlerias shown (left to right) are '*HCY's Big Smile*', '*Jardin de Monet*', and (hidden in back) '*Napolean V*'. Two Saintpaulia species also appear, *S. ionantha* and *S. grandifolia* #299. Jeanne wins a \$10 coupon good towards a future purchase. Congratulations, and thanks to all who entered.

Contact us:

email. comments@violetbarn.com

mail. POB 9, Naples, NY 14512

phone. 585-374-8592
Mon. thru Sat., 12-5 pm ET

Our shop and glasshouse at:
7209 County Road 12
Naples, New York 14512
Open Tuesday-Saturday 12-5 pm

Are you a member?

Consider joining the African Violet Society of America. Sign up through our website and get a free plant! For more information, visit www.avsa.org

Has your collection grown far beyond violets? Consider joining the Gesneriad Society. For more info: www.gesneriadsociety.org

If you have a nice photo to share, you'll have another chance. Entry deadline for the next contest is July 1. Send your entries to contest@violetbarn.com . Contest details and rules, and to view many of the past entries, see www.violetbarn.com/contest

This month's question:

I love these plants, but at my wit's end trying to keep them alive after I repot. Am super careful, but usually lose 1 or 2 plants. Any ideas as to what I'm doing wrong? I buy the African violet mix at the store, try no to pack tightly when adding plant, also am careful with light, etc.

When repotting, the most common mistakes are the following: 1. Overpotting. Never put into a pot more than one size (1") larger than the current pot, and do so only after the plant fills the current pot with roots (or nearly so). Much like kids shoes, you want to give them room to grow, but not overly so, and not until they're ready for them.

2. Wrong soil. "African violet" soil is not always good for African violets! These easily found mixes are typically too dense/heavy for violets, especially if you keep your plants on the wet side or use a self-watering system (like "African violet pots").

3. Overwatering. After repotting, water based upon the size of the current root system, not the size of the pot. You may have a 4" pot, but only a 2" root system! Therefore, 4" of very wet soil won't help the plant, since there are no roots in this excess soil to access the water. This only increases the chances of root rot. Gradually increase the water provided as you see the plant begin to grow (indicating the root system is also growing).

It's best to water "from the top" just after repotting, so that you can control the amount of water the plant is getting. Watering from the bottom does not give you that control. For the same reason, if using a self-watering system, it's best not to immediately fill the water reservoir. Instead, carefully water from the top until you see growth, then use the system as intended.

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